

# Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday-Feb 18  
Ashes and Mass- 9:30 am 5:00

Stations of the Cross- February 20,  
led by the Liturgy Ministry  
Fish Fry to Follow

**NO  
Religious Education  
THIS WEEKEND**

## Religious Education class line-up

K-8 grades Sundays at 10:00  
am  
(after Mass/Breakfast)

High School Youth Group  
1st and 3rd Sunday  
at 10:00 am

OCIA  
11:00- 12:00

**THE FOOD PANTRY HOURS**  
**WEDNESDAY &  
FRIDAY**  
**9 am TO noon**



## The Wednesday Night

**Men's Bible Study  
is  
Going Strong!**

**Each session starts at 5:30  
pm (or after Mass (or  
Communion service) and  
ends at 7:00 pm. All men of  
any age are welcome.**



[www.standrewsparta.com](http://www.standrewsparta.com)

# ST. ANDREW

CATHOLIC CHURCH



829 Valley View Dr. Sparta TN. 38583

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday February 15, 2026

## Reflections

by Fr. Njoku Canice  
Chukwuemeka, C.S.Sp

Today, the church invites us to reflect on the law of Christ. She urges us to pay attention to what she teaches us. The law of Christ is a divine law. However, it is not opposed to natural law. It is filled with wisdom and gives life to those who are faithful to it. It is a product of God's love for us. Hence, obeying it is a fundamental option for life and happiness.

In today's first reading, God presents us with two options, "life and death." In other words, He gives us the freedom to choose: "If you wish, keep His commandments...Man has life and death before him, whichever he likes, will be given to him." God created us out of his love. To guide us in life, he gave us his Law. Also, he gives us the freedom of choice. To make decisions and choices in life, he gave us reason to guide us.

Hence, God makes it clear that whatever choice we make in life has its consequences. If we choose to obey his laws, we shall be happy. However, if we make the wrong choice, we shall reap its fruit. Hence, the psalmist reminds us, "They are happy who follow God's Law." This means that as free beings, God never forces us. However, He encourages us to make the right choices by obeying his law, which gives us life and happiness. We often blame God for our mistakes, even when they are a product of our choice.

In the second reading, Paul refers to the law of Christ as wisdom. In other words, obeying the commands of Christ is the wisest thing to do. Hence, it is a mark of wisdom to live by the Law of Christ. Paul differentiates this wisdom from the Law of Christ from that which comes from human philosophy. This means that the law of Christ transcends and supersedes the words of men. The wisdom that comes from the Laws of God is divinely inspired, whereas the wisdom of men is mundane and limited. Hence, Jesus says: "What is born of the spirit is spirit, and what is born of the flesh is the flesh." (John 3, 6).

continued on page 3

This week's Major Sponsor 971 Smithville Hwy, Sparta, TN 38583 Tel:(931) 738-3838

## PARISH INFORMATION

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9: a.m. - 12 p.m.

Telephone:  
**(931) 738-2140**

[Visit Our Website](#)

Website:  
[www.standrewsparta.com](http://www.standrewsparta.com)

Please send bulletin changes,  
ads or announcements  
2 weeks ahead to:  
[bulletinsacc@gmail.com](mailto:bulletinsacc@gmail.com)

### OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:  
Rev. Father Emmanuel Dirichukwu  
[pastor@standrewsparta.com](mailto:pastor@standrewsparta.com)

Samantha Faust  
Parish Co-Ordinator  
[parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com](mailto:parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com)

Debi Donovan  
Assistant Parish Co-Ordinator  
[parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com](mailto:parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com)

Elizabeth Bates OCDs  
Director of Religious Education  
[religiouseducation@standrewsparta.com](mailto:religiouseducation@standrewsparta.com)

Marleen Loff Co-Ordinator  
Our Home Our Family Outreach  
[StandrewCCOutreach@yahoo.com](mailto:StandrewCCOutreach@yahoo.com)

PARISH DEACONS  
Robert "Bob" Graham  
Stephen "Steve" AuBuchon



Baptism:  
Please contact  
The Parish office about the  
birth of your child.

Reconciliation:  
Wednesdays 4:30-5:00  
Saturdays at 3:30-4:00  
and by appointment.

Marriage:  
Please contact the Parish  
office at least 4 months in  
advance for information and  
scheduling

Anointing of the Sick and  
homebound:  
Please contact the Parish  
Office for information on  
our Ministry of Care.

Father Emmanuel is  
available to hear  
confessions on  
Saturdays from 3:30pm  
to 4pm and on  
Wednesday from 4:30  
pm to 5 pm. Other  
confession times  
may be arranged  
directly with Father.

**HALTED IN  
JANUARY**



If you are a new parishioner, you are  
invited to stop by or telephone  
the parish office to register and let us  
know how we may be of service to you.

Please call the church office  
(931) 738-2140

If you have new information, such as a  
change of address or  
phone numbers, or if you are moving  
from the parish,  
please call the Parish office at (931)  
931-738-2140

Please visit the parish website:

[www.standrewsparta.com](http://www.standrewsparta.com)  
FIND IT EASY AT THE  
BOTTOM OF THE WEBSITE!

Please like and Follow our  
church Facebook page:  
[St AndrewCatholicChurch-Sparta,TN](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewCatholicChurch-SpartaTN)

**Any parish  
members  
who wish to join  
the Knights are  
welcome to talk  
with any active  
member to sign  
up.**

## THE KNIGHT'S CORNER

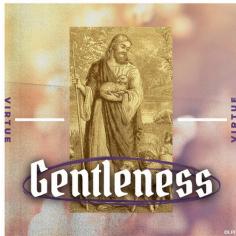
**DO YOU WANT TO BE A  
KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS  
MEMBER!  
JUST ASK ONE!**



The Knights of  
Columbus are  
sponsoring  
breakfast  
Sunday,  
March 1,  
with the  
monthly  
meeting to  
follow!



"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:6  
Farmers' Storehouse is a major sponsor of our bulletin.



#### VIRTUES, EXPLAINED

As followers of Christ, we are commanded to "always be prepared to offer an explanation . to justify the hope that is in you."

But the success of that evangelism hinges entirely on the very next instructions this passage contains: "However, do so with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

The word "gentleness" has come to be associated with softness and fragility. But there is no virtue that requires greater strength! As one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, gentleness disposes us to receive the inspirations of the Spirit, who "reveals to man who Jesus is" (ccc 152). In cultivating a spirit of gentleness, we more closely resemble Christ, who was unfailingly gentle, even in the face of violence and death!

"Every virtue is a good thing, but most of all gentleness and meekness," said St. John Chrysostom. "This shows us man; this makes us to differ from wild beasts; this fits us to vie with Angels."



### AS WE PREPARE FOR LENT

Please consider attending Mass on Ash Wednesday. Masses will be held at 9:30 a.m. and the usual 5:00 pm. Ashes will be distributed at both Masses.

Also, please bring in last years palms so that they may be burned for that purpose.

There is a basket at the back of the church, THE NAVE, near the doors.

Please keep in mind:  
All donations of the Second Collection goes to our outstanding Outreach Program, unless otherwise stated.

reflection continued from the front page

Today's gospel from Matthew has provoked much debate among biblical scholars about what Christ meant when he says: "I have not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it." Jesus is right when he says this. The Old Testament stands firm, fulfilled, and has reached its perfection in Christ. The Greek word for "fulfill" is "pleroo." It also means "to full" or "to complete." In light of today's gospel, it means to fulfill what was predicted in the Old Testament. Christ fulfilled the Law (Torah) through the sacrifice of himself. Therefore, He is now the fullness of the Law. To obey him is to observe the Law.

Therefore, Christ's treaty was against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the Sadducees of this present age. This is because they interpret the law falsely to the detriment of the people. It is a treaty against fake prophets and teachers who falsely declare, "thus says the Lord," to intimidate and exploit people. It is a treaty against those who make life difficult for others God's name while they have no regard for the law of Christ.

Finally, it is a treaty against the Pharisees of our time, who pay much attention to the letters of the law but neglect the Spirit of the Law. Christ came that we might have life and have it in full. He came that we might be free. He is the fullness of the Law and life. To obey him is to have life and happiness in full.

Peace be with you!

Maranatha!



Left- Mark & Mary Cisilino with Fr. Cyril



Below: Matt, Heather & Harper Weaver with Fr. Cyril



The Acharya Family Strategizing!

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#### ST. ANDREW MASS SCHEDULE INTENTIONS AND EVENTS

##### Saturday February 14, 2026

Adoration 3:00- 4:00  
Confession 3:30- 4:00  
4:00 Mass WALTER MANTHEY. R.I.P.

##### Sunday February 15, 2026

Adoration 8:00-8:30  
8:30- Mass INTENTION: FOR THE PARISH  
BREAKFAST IS SERVED

##### Wednesday February 18, 2026

ADORATION: 4:00- 5:00  
CONFESSON: 4:30- 5:00  
MASS- 9:30 & 5:00  
with Distribution of Ashes  
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY- 5:30

##### Thursday February 18, 2026

MASS- 9:30 a.m. SUE HUBBARD. R.I.P.

## Ministry Schedule

### February 14/15

Jim Spa Monica Jicha

Sondra Tersigni Branton Ferris, Sondra Tersigni  
Marleen Loff Barbara Leblanc

Jim Spa, Vols, Knights John Hawco, Mark Hudacheck  
Vols, Knights Luke Hudacheck, Samuel Baird

Monica Jicha, Don Baird  
Knights of Columbus



## Month of the Passion of the Lord

### FEBRUARY Anniversaries

∞ Tony and Sondra Tersigni 4th  
Joe and Jennifer Hudacheck 12th

### Birthdays

○ Cathy Clayton 1st  
Terri Sergio 9th  
Carole McLeod. 11th  
Paul Petrick 12th  
Marcisa Geer 19th  
Jordyn Tamez 21st  
Janice Clement 22nd

### MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY

Mary Tersigni R.I.P. 7th  
Walter Manthey R.I.P. 14th  
Anna Tersigni R.I.P. 18th  
Sue Hubbard R.I.P. 19th /26th  
Vera Bouton R.I.P. 21st  
Theresa Tersigni R.I.P. 25th  
Audrey and Steve Stevens R.I.P. 28th

## Daily Readings with Saints & Occasions

### February 16-22

Monday February 16, 2026

Ordinary Weekday

1st Reading: James 1: 1-11  
Psalm: Psalms 129: 67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76  
Alleluia: John 14: 6  
Gospel: Mark 8: 11-13

Tuesday February 17, 2026

Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, Religious

1st Reading: James 1: 12-18  
Psalm: Psalms 4: 12-13a, 14-15, 18-19  
Alleluia: John 14: 23

Gospel: Mark 8: 14-21

Wednesday February 18, 2026

Our Lady of Lourdes

1st Reading: Joel 2: 12-18  
Psalm: Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17  
2nd Reading: 2Corinthians 5: 20 - 6:2  
Verse Before the Gospel: Psalms 95: 8

Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

Thursday February 19, 2026

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20  
Psalm: Psalms 1: 1-2, 3, 4 and 6

Verse Before the Gospel: Matthew 4: 17

Gospel: Luke 9: 22-25

Friday February 20, 2026

Friday After Ash Wednesday.

Day of Abstinence from Meat (age 14 and up)

1st Reading: Isaiah 58: 1-9a

Psalm: Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19

Verse Before the Gospel: Amos 5: 14

Gospel: Matthew 9: 14-15

Saturday February 21, 2026

Saturday After Ash Wednesday/ Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor

1st Reading: Isaiah 58: 9b-14

Psalm: Psalms 86: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Verse Before the Gospel: Ezekiel 33: 11

Gospel: Luke 5: 27-32

Sunday February 22, 2026

1st Sunday of LENT

1st Reading: Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7

Psalm: Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17

2nd Reading Romans 5: 12-19 or 5: 12, 17-19

Verse Before the Gospel: Matthew 4: 4b

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Katie Charfauros  
Payton Newman

Jim Winton

Danny Gutierrez

Art Gutierrez

Linda McGraw

Roseanna Hassett

Elaine Garrett

Heidi Holland

Diane Barry

Verne & Bernice Clapp

John Barry

Clara Magushak

Harry Dennis

Karen Norris

Pat Wilson

Andrzej Konwinski

Anita Borski

Margaret Massa

Anna Barry

Dan Clayton

May the Souls  
of all  
the Faithful  
Departed,  
Through the  
Mercy of God,  
Rest in Peace.  
Amen.

Farmers' Storehouse This week's Major Sponsor 971 Smithville Hwy, Sparta, TN 38583 Tel: (931) 738-3838

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